

Exhibit 3: Letters of Support

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CHAIR, BUDGET
JUDICIARY
LABOR & EMPLOYMENT
NATURAL RESOURCES

Assembly
California Legislature
JOHN LAIRD
ASSEMBLY MEMBER, TWENTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT

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March 27, 2006

Douglas Bosco, Chair
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Valencia Creek Fish Passage Improvement Projects

Dear Chair Bosco:

I am writing to express my support for the Santa Cruz County Department of Public Works' two Valencia Creek Fish Passage Improvement Projects that will 1) reconstruct a failed fish ladder at Soquel Road, and 2) retrofit a culvert at Valencia Road. The Aptos Creek watershed is a high priority steelhead stream and historically the southernmost reach of Coho salmon. These two sites are the most significant barriers in the watershed. The implementation of these two projects will restore critical migration passage for five miles of spawning and rearing habitat upstream.

Both Valencia Creek projects were identified as high priority in the Aptos Creek Watershed Enhancement Plan, funded by the Coastal Conservancy and the Department of Fish and Game (DFG). These two projects were also identified by DFG and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) as high priorities for funding for designs and permits through the Integrated Watershed Restoration Program (IWRP).

As you know, the mission of IWRP is to facilitate and coordinate projects to improve fish and wildlife habitat and water quality in Santa Cruz County watersheds using a voluntary, non-regulatory approach. DFG and NMFS have been closely involved in the design of both projects.

The Santa Cruz County Department of Public Works has been an active participant in IWRP and is working closely with the Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District and Resource Agency Design and Permit Technical Advisory Committee members.

These two high priority projects will provide a substantial benefit to fisheries in the Aptos Creek Watershed. I hope you will give these projects every consideration for funding.

Sincerely,



JOHN LAIRD
Assemblymember, 27th District

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OAKLAND, CALIF.

<http://www.assembly.ca.gov/dam/uh/mamharc/s27/>



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**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southwest Region

777 Sonoma Ave., Room 325

Santa Rosa, CA 95404-6528

April 5, 2006

In response refer to:

151422SWR2006SR00208:JMA

151422SWR2006SR00209:JMA

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairperson
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, California 94612

RE: Valencia Creek Fish Passage Improvement Projects

Dear Chairperson Bosco:

This letter is in regard to NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) support of the County of Santa Cruz Department of Public Works' (DPW) grant proposal to the Coastal Conservancy to: 1) reconstruct a failed fish ladder at Soquel Road (151422SWR2006SR00208:JMA), and 2) retrofit a culvert at Valencia Road (151422SWR2006SR00209:JMA). Currently, the failed ladder and culvert present significant migration barriers to Central California Coast (CCC) Distinct Population Segment (DPS) steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). These migration barriers are located in Valencia Creek, tributary to Aptos Creek, central coastal Santa Cruz County, California. CCC DPS steelhead are listed as a threatened species pursuant to the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, and fall under the regulatory jurisdiction of NMFS.

These two sites are the most significant barriers in the watershed and successful implementation of these two projects will restore passage to five miles of upstream spawning and rearing habitat (recently designated as critical habitat for CCC DPS steelhead).

Both Valencia Creek sites were identified as high priority restoration projects in the Aptos Creek Watershed Enhancement Plan (Coastal Watershed Council 2003). They were also identified by NMFS as high priority for funding for designs and permits through the Integrated Watershed Restoration Program (IWRP). NMFS has participated as part of the IWRP Design and Permit Technical Advisory Committee and has consulted with Jim Robins (contractor for Sustainable Conservation) and the DPW in the designs of both projects. DPW plans to construct both projects between July 1, 2006 and October 15, 2006.

NMFS encourages the Coastal Conservancy to approve the DPW's grant proposal for the reconstruction of the failed fish ladder and culvert retrofit as we believe these actions will provide significant benefits to CCC DPS steelhead populations in Aptos Creek. NMFS appreciates the Coastal

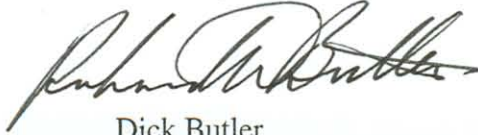


Exhibit 3: Letters of Support

2

Conservancy's consideration of this issue. If you have any questions or comments regarding this letter, please feel free to contact Mr. Jonathan Ambrose of my staff at (707) 575-6091 or jonathan.ambrose@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,



Dick Butler
Santa Rosa Area Office Supervisor
Protected Resources Division

c: Russ Strach, NMFS
Karen Christensen, Santa Cruz RCD

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OAKLAND, CALIF.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

50 HIGUERA STREET
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93401-5415
PHONE (805) 549-3101
FAX (805) 549-3329
TDD (805) 549-3259
<http://www.dot.gov/dist05>



*Flex your power!
Be energy efficient!*

March 1, 2006

County of Santa Cruz
Department of Public Works
Thomas L. Bolich - Director
ATTN: John J. Presleigh - Asst. Director
701 Ocean Street, Room 410
Santa Cruz, California 95060-4070

Dear Mr. Presleigh:

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY INTEGRATED WATERSHED RESTORATION
PROGRAM - VALENCIA CREEK FISH PASSAGE PROJECT**

This is in response to your recent correspondence regarding Santa Cruz County (County) accessing its Soquel Drive reinforced concrete box (RCB) culvert through a State Department of Transportation (State) RCB culvert. Both the County and State culverts are presently retrofitted with half width Washington Baffle type fish passage structures that have been unsuccessful in that purpose and have instead become debris traps.

The County requires access through the State culvert (located immediately downstream) in order to access the Soquel Drive RCB to construct both an improved fish passage structure and a series of drop pool structures. The drop pool structures will transition flow from the existing perched culvert outlet to the existing downstream channel grade.

The County will need to demolish and remove the existing Washington Baffle system from the State RCB in order to use it for movement of equipment and materials between the staging and work sites. The County proposes the following actions at the State's RCB culvert:

1. Demolish the existing Washington Baffle system and separator wall.
2. Either remove the reinforcement bar dowels (used to secure the baffles and wall) or grind them to a depth of not less than 2-inches below culvert floor grade and epoxy grout the holes to grade.
3. Retrofit the State RCB with the same style concrete baffle fish passage structure that will be installed at Soquel Drive. This shall specifically include all of the features shown on the layout plan and detailed in the Highway 1 "Culvert elevation" and "Culvert Detail" drawings on sheet 5 of 7 in the DRAFT plan set for the Valencia Creek Fish Ladder dated 2/10/06.

John J. Presleigh
Santa Cruz County Assistant Director of Public Works
March 1, 2006
Page 2

This proposed demolition and reconstruction shall be 100% funded by the County and included as part of the "County Project Plans for Construction of Valencia Creek Fish Ladder" contract.

The State Department of Transportation supports the County's pro-active approach in recognizing the failure of the existing fish passage structure(s) and providing the expertise to develop structures that will genuinely be viable for fish passage. To that end, the State is willing to provide assistance on and waiving of the encroachment permit to perform this work.

We look forward to working with Santa Cruz County Department of Public Works in making this project a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Price', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

STEVE PRICE
Deputy District Director of
Maintenance and Operations

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County of Santa Cruz

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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FOURTH DISTRICT

MARK W. STONE
FIFTH DISTRICT

March 28, 2006

Douglas Bosco, Chairperson
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: VALENCIA CREEK FISH PASSAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Dear Mr. Bosco and Members of the Conservancy:

I am writing in support of two high priority fish recovery projects on Valencia Creek in Santa Cruz County:

1. Reconstruction of a failed fish ladder at Soquel Drive, and
2. Retrofit of a culvert at Valencia Road

Valencia Creek is a major tributary to Aptos Creek in Santa Cruz County. The Aptos Creek watershed is a high priority steelhead stream and historically the southernmost extent of Coho salmon.

These sites are the most significant barriers in the watershed, failing to meet passage criteria for all species of adult salmonids and all age classes of juveniles under all flow conditions. Implementation of these two projects will restore migration passage at most flows to five miles of spawning and rearing habitat, essentially opening up the entire watershed.

These Valencia Creek projects are being implemented this year as a result of the Integrated Watershed Restoration Program (IWRP) for Santa Cruz County and the Partners in Restoration Permit Coordination Program, both funded by the Conservancy. They are also consistent with the County's FishNet 4C Program. The County has dedicated staff resources to work on the projects, and the County Fish and Game Commission funded each project during earlier stages. Both Valencia Creek projects were also identified as high priorities in the Aptos Creek Watershed Enhancement Plan by the Department of Fish and Game and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Modification of these two significant barriers on Valencia Creek will benefit fish passage throughout the entire Aptos Creek Watershed.

Exhibit 3: Letters of Support

March 28, 2006
Page 2

Thank you for your continued support.

Very truly yours, .



ELLEN PIRIE, Supervisor
Second District

EP:lg

cc: Karen Christensen, Resource Conservation District
✓ Kate Goodnight, Central Coast Project Manager

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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

701 OCEAN STREET, ROOM 312, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4073
(831) 454-2022 FAX: (831) 454-3128 TDD: (831) 454-4123

www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/eh/ehhome.htm

March 22, 2006

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairperson
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Valencia Creek Fish Passage Improvement Projects

Dear Mr. Bosco,

We are writing to enthusiastically support implementation funding for the Valencia Creek Fish Passage Improvements Projects. The Valencia Creek Fish Ladder project has been in development since 2000, when a local group, the Community Action Board, received funding to develop conceptual plans for a fish ladder at the Soquel Drive site. Later, the Aptos Creek Watershed Enhancement Plan (2004) and the County of Santa Cruz Culvert Inventory and Fish Passage Evaluation (2004) validated that these are two high priority projects that will restore steelhead passage to over 5 miles of habitat in Valencia Creek. Both these projects have strong support from the California Department of Fish and Game and NOAA Fisheries. The County of Santa Cruz Public Works received funding from the Integrated Watershed Restoration Program (IWRP) to complete the design for the fish ladder, design the culvert retrofit at Valencia Road and permit the projects.

We feel fortunate that the Coastal Conservancy will consider funding these projects for construction in Summer 2006. This is a great opportunity for Public Works to implement these first two projects designed under the IWRP program while momentum is high.

The County of Santa Cruz Public Works Department will provide a \$47,000 match contribution from the Steelhead Beneficial Projects Account. In addition, Public Works has received an endorsement for an additional \$25,000 from the County of Santa Cruz Fish and Game Advisory Commission. The Commission will make a final vote on this funding on April 6th, 2006.

Exhibit 3: Letters of Support

We strongly support these projects and hope to see their implementation in the Summer of 2006.

Sincerely,

Kristen Kittleson

Kristen Kittleson, Fishery Resource Planner

John Ricker

John Ricker, Water Resources Program Manager
Environmental Health Services
701 Ocean St., Room 312
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

cc: John Presleigh, Assistant Director, Public Works
Kate Goodnight, Coastal Conservancy
Karen Christensen, Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District

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OAKLAND, CALIF.

Exhibit 3: Letters of Support

Kate

Coastal Watershed Council

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairperson
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

March 29, 2006

RE: Valencia Creek Fish Passage Improvement Projects

Dear Chairperson Bosco:

I am writing on behalf of the Coastal Watershed Council to express our support for the County of Santa Cruz Department of Public Works proposal to implement two Valencia Creek Fish Passage Improvement Projects to: 1) reconstruct a failed fish ladder at Soquel Road and 2) retrofit a culvert at Valencia Road.

The Coastal Watershed Council (CWC) developed the Aptos Creek Watershed Assessment and Enhancement Plan in 2003 with funding from the Coastal Conservancy and the Department of Fish and Game (DFG). These two projects were identified as high priority. Aptos Creek, where Valencia Creek is a substantial sub-watershed, is a high priority steelhead stream and historically the southernmost extent of Coho salmon. The Aptos Creek watershed was identified as one of nine watersheds targeted in the Draft Strategic Plan for Restoration of Endangered Coho Salmon South of San Francisco Bay, (CDFG, 1998). These two sites are the most significant fish passage barriers in the watershed and the implementation of both of these projects will restore critical migration passage to five additional miles of spawning and rearing habitat upstream of Soquel Road.

In addition, these projects were identified by DFG and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) as high priority for funding of designs and permits through the Integrated Watershed Restoration Program (IWRP) administered by the Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District. The mission of IWRP is to facilitate and coordinate projects to improve fish and wildlife habitat and water quality in Santa Cruz County watersheds using a voluntary, non-regulatory approach. Both DFG and NMFS have been closely involved in the design of these two projects. In addition, these projects also have strong support from the County of Santa Cruz Fisheries Resource Planner and the IWRP 'Design and Permit' Technical Advisory Committee.

The Santa Cruz County Department of Public Works has invested substantial resources to these two projects and CWC strongly supports their implementation. Your funding of this work will implement two high priority projects in the watershed and will provide substantial benefit to the fisheries of the Aptos Creek Watershed.

I strongly support the staff recommendation to fund implementation of these two high priority projects in Aptos Creek Watershed. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



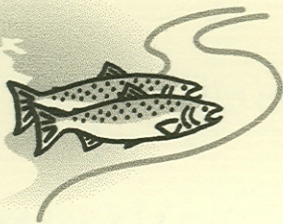
Tamara Doan,
Director of Programs

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Exhibit 3: Letters of Support



FishNet 4C *Fishery Network of Central California Coastal Counties*

A Regional Approach to Salmonid Protection and Restoration

March 21, 2006

Program Director
Darcy Aston
515 G Street
Petaluma, CA 94952
707.762-5162

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairperson
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

County Sponsors

Mendocino County
Supervisors
Jim Wattenburger
Michael Delbar

Sonoma County
Supervisor
Mike Reilly

Marin County
Supervisor
Steve Kinsey

San Mateo County
Supervisor
Rich Gordon

Santa Cruz County
Supervisor
Mark Stone

Monterey County
Supervisor
Dave Potter

Participating Agencies

California Department of
Fish & Game

National Marine
Fisheries Service

CA Resources Agency

RE: Valencia Creek Fish Passage Improvement Projects

Dear Mr. Bosco:

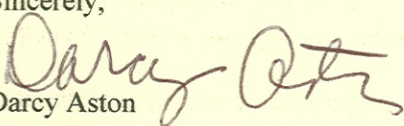
I am writing to express the support of FishNet 4C for the staff recommendation to fund the fish passage improvement projects on Valencia Creek in Santa Cruz County. These excellent projects, which include renovation of a fish ladder and a culvert retrofit, will provide passage to five miles of important spawning and rearing habitat, essentially opening up the entire watershed.

FishNet 4C comprises the six Central California coastal counties from Monterey north to Mendocino, including Santa Cruz. Collaborative fish passage projects such as these on Valencia Creek are a high priority to FishNet, which sponsored the original stream crossing inventory and fish passage evaluation (Ross Taylor and Associates 2003) on which these projects are based. The Aptos Creek watershed, to which Valencia Creek is a major tributary, is a high priority steelhead stream and historically the southernmost extent of Coho salmon. Because this watershed provides important habitat for both of these endangered species, these projects will be significant contributions to the recovery planning efforts currently underway by both state and federal agencies.

These projects are not only important on a local level, but because of the collaborative nature of the FishNet 4C effort, they will also provide important precedent to the other FishNet counties as they seek to develop fish passage projects. The County of Santa Cruz has been an important resource to our other counties on fish passage project design and implementation. Successful implementation of the projects on Valencia Creek will be shared and will also increase the capacity of the other FishNet counties.

We urge you to support the ongoing efforts of the County of Santa Cruz to restore habitat for Coho salmon and steelhead trout, as well as continuing the Conservancy's legacy of funding important fisheries restoration projects.

Sincerely,


Darcy Aston
Program Director

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District

**820 Bay Avenue, Suite 128
Capitola, California 95010**

sccrcd@sccrcd.org

**Ph: (831) 464-2950
Fx: (831) 475-3215**

April 18, 2006

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairperson
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Valencia Creek Fish Passage Improvement Projects

Dear Chairperson Bosco:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District to express support for the County of Santa Cruz Department of Public Works two Valencia Creek Fish Passage Improvement Projects to; 1) reconstruct a failed fish ladder at Soquel Road and 2) retrofit a culvert at Valencia Road. These projects were identified in the Aptos Creek Watershed Enhancement Plan and were identified and prioritized for designs and permits through the Integrated Watershed Restoration Program (IWRP) for Santa Cruz County. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) considers Aptos Creek watershed a high priority steelhead stream and historically the southernmost extent of Coho salmon.

The IWRP Design and Permit TAC have visited the sites and provided extensive input on the project designs. In addition, we have worked with the Department of Public Works extensively on these two projects. The Santa Cruz County Department of Public Works plans to construct both projects between July 1, 2006 and October 15, 2006. These projects are a high priority for the Aptos Creek Watershed and will significantly increase migration passage to five miles of spawning and rearing habitat upstream.

The SCCRCD supports the implementation of these high priority fish passage improvement projects and strongly supports this staff recommendation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (831) 464-2950. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Karen Christensen
Executive Director of Programs

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**COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.**